

## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 SY-05 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07

CIAE-00 PM-04 /045 W

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R 071315Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1928

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SWEL, ET, US

SUBJ: HARAR EYE CLINIC

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 11993, B. STATE 289753

1. CHIEF, NAVAL SECTION, MAAG, HAS RETURNED FROM HARAR WHERE HE HELD, INTER ALIA, LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS ON SECURITY PROBLEMS INVOLVING EYE CLINIC WITH DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF PROVINCE, CO OF EPMG THIRD DIVISION, HARAR CHIEF OF POLICE AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR. PURPOSE OF HIS MISSION HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO CHIEF OF STAFF ETHIOPIAN MILITARY FORCES AND AMERICAN DIVISION CHIEF, MOFA, BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL AND BOTH HAD BEEN ASKED INDICATE INTEREST OF EPMG TO PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES IN PROVIDING ADEQUATE SECURITY ASSURANCES IF THAT WAS WISH OF EPMG. WE BELIEVE THEY BOTH DID SO.

2. ALL FOUR CONTACTS IN HARAR INDICATED IN STRONGEST TERMS THEIR INTEREST IN KEEPING CLINIC OPEN AND THEIR WILLINGNESS PROVIDE ANY SECURITY WE FELT NECESARRY TO INSURE SAFETY OF NAVY DOCTORS INCLUDING STATIONING OF ARMED GUARDS AT RESIDENCE IF THAT SEEMED DESIRABLE. ASSURANCES INCLUDED PROVISION OF PERIODIC ROVING PATROLS AND QUICK REACTION BY BOTH ARMY AND POLICE TO ANY CALL FOR ASSISTANCE IN ADDITION TO ARMED GUARD. MOFA AMERICAN DIVISION CHIEF EVENING DEC 6 ALSO REITERATED TO ME HIS GOVT'S DESIRE SEE CLINIC REMAIN OPEN.

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3. INCIDENTS INVOLVING CDR. MITTAG IN BOTH ADDIS AND HARAR WERE KNOWN TO ALL FOUR CONTACTS AS WELL AS OTHERS IN HARAR, AND THEIR OBSERVATIONS ARE BEING REPORTED THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS. GENERAL TENOR WAS THAT INCIDENTS WERE PROBABLY RELATED TO THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED RATHER THAN CLINIC, ALTHOUGH NOTHING SPECIFIC SURFACED.

4. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT APPEARS VERY CLEAR TO ME THAT ETHIOPIANS WISH CLINIC TO REMAIN OPEN AND ARE PREPARED PROVIDE WHATEVER SECURITY WE WISH. QUESTION OF LOGISTICS IS STILL UNCLEAR TO US, BUT NAVY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT MAAG AIRCRAFT ARE FLYING AGAIN. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT NAVY TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO SEND DOCTORS BACK TO HARAR WITHOUT DELAY. I BELIEVE ETHIOPIANS ARE SINCERE IN THEIR ASSURANCES RE DOCTORS' SAFETY, AND THAT WITH PROPER LIAISON BETWEEN DOCTORS THEMSELVES AND HARAR AUTHORITIES, ASSURANCES CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO BEST OF ETHIOPIANS' ABILITY.  
TIENKEN

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